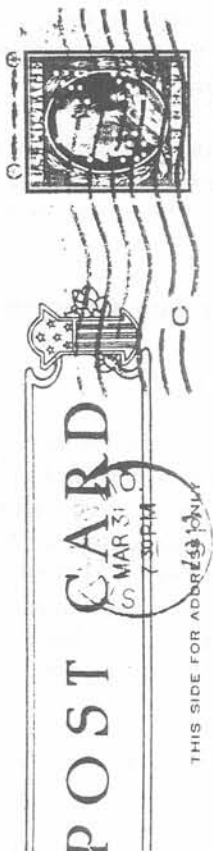
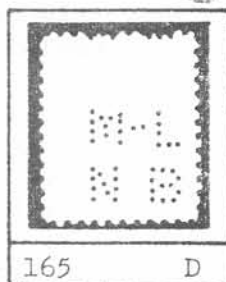


A Couple of Interesting Items



Schell City Bank,
Schell City, MO



The two postcards with one cent perfin stamps shown above were mailed by the Merchants-Laclede National Bank to the Schell City Bank showing credit deposits. One card is postmarked St. Louis, MO, December 5, 1910. The second is postmarked March 31, 1911. On one card the stamp was perfinned face up and on the second face down. This is an interesting use of perfin pattern M165.

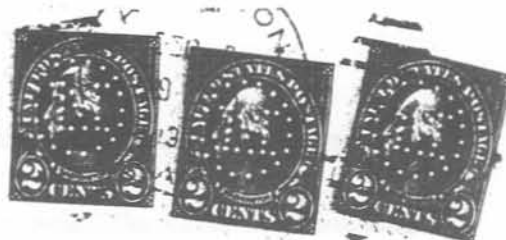
The Merchants-Laclede National Bank of ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Mo. 1911

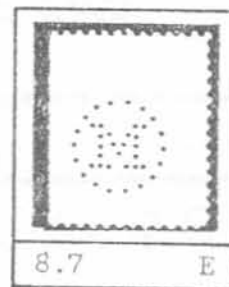
Your favor of 10 received with enclosures as stated:

We Credit: ☒ Checks and Drafts on Other

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
COLGAN STAMPS
The Home of Philatelic Gems
1233 Kansas Avenue
ATCHISON, KANSAS



*Kenneth H. Mc Kown
94 Highland Ave
Lebanon
New Hampshire*



The Colgan Stamps cover shown above (photographically cropped) is somewhat unusual in that the perfin does not match the user. The perfin is the well-known letter M of the State of Michigan (M8.7).

The following is conjecture:

The Colgan Stamp cover is very interesting. Some dealers may have used perfins, but these are State of Michigan perfins and hence there is little likelihood that the State of Michigan provided older mint stamps for a return response.

If the stamps were stolen, it had to be during the period that they were commonly in use for postage. I would believe that Colgan acquired them through a collection or accumulation that they had bought and the original owner was the culprit. He may have taken them home or acquired them from a friend employed by the state.

Technically, by the US Post Office codes that existed at the time these stamps were used (1952), they would have been considered stolen property.

The severity of the offense is probably dictated by the number of stamps that Colgan had in his possession. Did he have a few singles or a number of sheets? Since he used three stamps on one cover, one might conclude that he had sheets.

Since Colgan was "The Home of Philatelic Gems" we may assume that they had some familiarity with Post Office Regulations.

There is no evidence that Colgan got into trouble using these stamps. Nor is there any evidence that the thousands of other covers we have seen with a perfin not matching the user ever got anyone into trouble with the US Post Office.

On the other hand, there is the possibility that the stamps were not stolen property and Colgan or the individual that Colgan acquired these stamps from acquired them legally.